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AUTHENTIC PAPERS

RELATING TO THE EXPEDIENCY OF IMPORTING

SALTED BEEF, PORK, BUTTER, AND FISH,

INTO THE

Iſland of Jamaica,

Either freely from neutral and other ſtates in amity with Great Britain, or excluſively from the Britiſh dominions, in Britiſh veſſels, and by Britiſh ſubjects.

TRANSMITTED FROM JAMAICA

TO THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OF DUBLIN.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BY
R. E. MERCIER, 31, ANGLESEA-STREET.

1806.

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AUTHENTIC PAPERS,

RELATING TO THE EXPEDIENCY OF IMPORTING

Salted Beef, Pork, Butter, and Fiſh, into the

ISLAND OF JAMAICA,

Either freely by Neutral and other States in amity with Great Britain, or excluſively from the Britiſh dominions, in Britiſh veſſels, and by

BRITISH SUBJECTS.

No. I.

Reſolution of the Council of Jamaica, adviſing his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, to interdict the importation of proviſions by neutrals.

21ſt day of November, 1804.

WHEREAS by a reſolution of Council, bearing date the 17th day of July, 1800, his Honor the Lieutenant Governor was adviſed to recommend to the ſeveral Officers of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, at the ſeveral ports of this iſland, to permit the free importation of *ſheep, hogs, poultry, ſmall live ſtock of all kinds, and all ſorts of fruit, ſalted and all other proviſions; and lumber of every deſcription*, as well in Britiſh as in all other veſſels belonging to neutral

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and other ſtates, in amity with Great Britain, from the day of the date thereof, until the 31ſt day of December next enſuing, and until ſix months notice ſhould be given to the contrary, upon the like terms, charges, and conditions, and ſubject to the ſame rules, regulations, viſitations, and ſearches, as are obſerved with reſpect to Britiſh veſſels importing proviſions to this iſland: And whereas permiſſion was alſo granted to all neutral veſſels importing the above articles, under the authority of the above reſolution, to export rum and molaſſes from any port or ports, place or places, of this iſland, upon the like terms, ſtipulations, charges, and conditions, as are obſerved with reſpect to the Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes.

Reſolved, That his Honor be adviſed to ſignify to the principal Officers of his Majeſty's Cuſtoms, at the ſeveral ports of this iſland, that from and after the expiration of ſix months, to be computed from the preſent date, the ſaid reſolution of Council of the 17th of July, 1800, is to be no longer conſidered in force.

M. ATKINSON, Cl. Conc.

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No. II.

The Repreſentation and Petition of certain Inhabitants of the city and pariſh of Kingston, to his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, concerning the importation of certain articles of proviſions and lumber, in American bottoms.

To his Honor GEORGE NUGENT, *Eſq. Lieutenant Governor, and Commander in Chief in and over his Majeſty's iſland of Jamaica, and the territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the ſame.*

The Repreſentation and Petition of the underſigned Inhabitants of the City and Pariſh of Kingston.

SHEWETH,

"That there exiſts at preſent in this city and in the iſland at large,* an alarming ſcarcity of proviſions of all kinds, and of the neceſſary articles of lumber. The quantity now on hands in this city, and the probable time for which it may ſuffice, being repreſented by the ſchedule hereunto annexed.

* This and other allegations contained in this paper, are diſproved in No. IV. and X.

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" That the ſuſpenſion of our late intercourſe with the United States of North America, muſt render a further ſupply of the above mentioned neceſſary articles very ſcanty and precarious; it having been abundantly proved by upwards of twenty years experience, that the Britiſh colonies are altogether inadequate to ſupply our wants,* and in time of war, ſupplies in Britiſh bottoms from the United States, cannot in any manner be relied upon.

" That accounts from the country preſent a ſtill more alarming ſtate of things, there being in many pariſhes not a ſingle barrel of flour, meal, or buſhel of grain, for ſale.† That the evils repreſented to your Honor by the addreſs of the Honorable Houſe of Aſſembly on the 20th of April laſt, not only exiſt in their full effect, but have materially increaſed ſince that period.

" That it will be abſolutely impoſſible to prepare packages for the tranſportation of the produce of the iſland, unleſs a ſupply of

* The capability of the Britiſh Colonies in North America and Newfoundland, to ſupply the Britiſh Weſt Indies with dried Cod Fiſh, cannot be controverted.

† See Nos. IV. and X. on this point.

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lumber* ſhall be alſo admitted from the ſaid United States, and without which the crops muſt neceſſarily periſh on the ground.

" That your petitioners are ſeriouſly apprehenſive, that unleſs they ſhall be permitted to be ſupplied from the United States in American bottoms, abſolute famine muſt be the conſequence.

" Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honor will take theſe circumſtances into your conſideration, and grant ſuch relief as the nature of ths caſe requires."

N. B. The ſchedule has not been tranſmitted to Ireland.

No. III.

ANSWER

Of his Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

GENTLEMEN,

I have taken into due conſideration your repreſentation of the ſcarcity of proviſions and lumber in the city and pariſh of Kingſton, and your petition to be permitted to be ſupplied with the neceſſary articles from the United States in American bottoms, together with the ſtatement of the Committee

* The free importation of lumber, is not oppoſed by the Britiſh intereſt.

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entruſted to take an account of all the proviſions and lumber for ſale in Kingſton: In conſequence of which, and the repreſentations from various other pariſhes in the iſland, I have determined, as a caſe of real and urgent neceſſity, to iſſue my proclamation, to authoriſe the importation of lumber of every deſcription, and of certain articles of proviſions, for ſix months from this date,* in American bottoms, from the United States, and the exportation of rum and molaſſes in return.

The Inhabitants of the city and pariſh of Kingston.

No. IV.

Remonſtrance againſt the free importation from the United States of America, of certain articles of proviſions, which the Britiſh dominions can fully ſupply.

To his Honor Lieutenant-General GEORGE NUGENT, *Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c. &c.*

The Memorial of the underſigned, a portion of the Merchants of this city, in behalf of them-

* N. B. The date of his Excellency's Anſwer is not mentioned in the copy tranſmitted, but it appears from a ſubſequent proclamation, to have been dated the 20th of May, 1804.

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ſelves and their Conſtituents, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the Britiſh American Colonies.

Who beg leave to ſtate, that in the event of the order of your Honor and Council, of the 21ſt of November laſt, being reſcinded, and the ports again laid open to the free importation from the United States, in American bottoms, of the articles of *ſalted beef, pork, butter, dry and pickled fiſh, it will prove extremely prejudicial to your Memorialiſts Conſtituents, as well as to the Iriſh proviſion Merchants and Graziers in general, and the Britiſh American Fiſheries, who have it amply in their power to furniſh this, and the other Britiſh dependencies in the Weſt Indies, with the moſt abundant ſupplies of theſe neceſſary articles of life, and at moderate prices, if properly encouraged, and firm aſſurance given, that they will not have to contend with a rival nation, whoſe mercantile ſpeculations are ſeldom governed by any fixed rules*

That there does not appear to your Memorialiſts, to be any neceſſity for reſcinding ſaid order, there being no ſcarcity of theſe articles, and conſiderable ſupplies being daily

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expected to arrive. Indeed, ſo overſtocked is the market with the above mentioned ſpecies of proviſions, that ſales cannot be effected of them at coſt and charges; and it is alſo a melancholy fact, which cannot be controverted, that many reſpectable Iriſh houſes have recently become bankrupts, in conſequence of loſſes ſuſtained by them in their ſhipments of theſe articles to the Weſt Indies.

Your Memorialiſts beg leave further to ſtate, from the authority of their correſpondents, that repreſentations have of late been tranſmitted to his Majeſty's Miniſters from the cities of Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Newry, and Belfaſt, ſtating, that in caſe of the ports of the Britiſh Weſt Indies being again opened, the importation of the articles herein enumerated, ſhould not be admitted in neutral bottoms; but the reſult was not made public at the time of the ſailing of the laſt packet.

Your Memorialſts therefore pray, that your Honor will take theſe matters into your conſideration, and act therein, as to your judgment ſhall ſeem meet.

(Signed)

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(Signed)

Henry, Weſt, & Co.	Auchie, Miller, & Co.
Shaw, Inglis, & Mills,	H. Wardle, Bleaſe, & Co.
James Amoſs,	G. Hindmarſh, & Co.
N. Williamſon,	Wm. Hoſeaſon,
Smith, Huie, & Co.	Edward Cowell,
Joſeph Donnell,	A. Holt,
H. Ewing,	John Fox,
A. M'Culloch,	Alex. M'Bean, & Co.
J. Haggart,	Arch. Currie,
Thomas Gliſſon,	Don. Campbell,
M'Caa & Walker,	Stewart & Wood,
Croſman, Harris, & Co.	John Weſt & Co.
Thomas Cuming,	Burrowes & Fowles,
James Keene,	Purcell & Parcifico,
Roſs & Caldwell,	Knox & Herdman,
James Harnett,	Nathan Herdman,
W. Harrington,	Hamilton & Collier,
W. Carter,	John Grant,
Joſeph Longmore,	Joſeph Aguilar, jun.
J. Jones,	Benj. Dias Fernandes,
James Howie,	Rebeiro, Son, & Co.
Munro & Hance,	Alex. Brodie,
Moffat & Alexander,	Wm. Bryan,
Thomas Uſher, & Co.	Ewing, Ritchie, & Co.
Robert Murray,	Ferguſſon & Co.

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No. V.

ANSWER,

Of his Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

King's-House, May 19, 1805,

GENTLEMEN,

I have paid due attention to the ſubject of your memorial, and have determined in iſſuing my proclamation, to permit the importation of lumber and *proviſions* in American bottoms, from the United States, to limit the *latter* to certain articles of proviſions therein enumerated, which are ſo much required in Jamaica, *and which will not interfere with ſuch articles as are imported into the iſland from Great Britain and Ireland.**

G. NUGENT.

Merchants of Kingston, &c. &c.

* This is the fair line of diſtinction.

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No. VI.

JAMAICA, S.S.

Proclamation permitting the free importation of materials for Bread, and other vegetable productions as enumerated, and lumber, but continuing the reſtriction in general terms, as to ſalted proviſions and other articles not enumerated.

By his Honor GEORGE NUGENT, *Eſq. Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's iſland of Jamaica, and the territories thereon depending in America, &c. &c.*

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas it appears, by the memorial and returns from ſundry pariſhes, that there is at preſent a very general ſcarcity throughout the iſland, of American proviſions and lumber, and that a real and urgent neceſſity exiſts for my exerciſing the diſcretionary power veſted in me by his Majeſty, relative to the intercourſe between this colony and the United States of America: I do

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therefore iſſue this my Proclamation, permitting for the ſpace of ſix months, to be computed from this date, the *free importation of flour, corn, corn-meal, bread, rice, peas, beans, and lumber of every deſcription*, in veſſels belonging to neutral and other ſtates in amity with Great Britain, upon the like terms, charges, and conditions, and ſubject to the ſame rules, regulations, viſitations, and ſearches, as are obſerved with reſpect to Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes.

And I do hereby alſo permit all veſſels importing the foregoing articles, under the authority of this proclamation, to export from hence rum and molaſſes, from any port or ports, place or places, of this iſland, upon the like terms, ſtipulations, charges, and conditions, as are obſerved with reſpect to Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes. And in caſe any perſon or perſons importing proviſions or lumber to this iſland, under the authority of this proclamation, ſhall attempt to introduce *any other articles than are therein particularly enumerated*, meaſures will be immediately adopted for the for-

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feiture of the ſhip or veſſel and cargo, ſo contravening the laws of navigation.

Given under my hand and ſeal at arms, at St. Jago de la Vega, this 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1805, and of his Majeſty's reign the 45th.

G. NUGENT.

By his Honor's command,

HUGH CATHCART, Sec.

No. VII.

JAMAICA.

Repreſentation of the Aſſembly of Jamaica, on the prohibition againſt importing ſalted Proviſions from the United States of America.

To his Honor Lieutenant General NUGENT, *Lieutenant Governor, &c.*

SHEWETH,

That after the applications made to your Honor by the Houſe, and by the inhabitants at large, aſſembled in their reſpective pariſhes, nothing but a ſenſe of duty, the moſt imperious, and our confidence in your Honor's wiſhes to relieve the diſtreſſes of

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the country,* could have induced the Houſe again to call your Honor's attention to the interdiction of a ſupply of ſalted proviſions from the United States of America.

It is matter of public notoriety, that the herring fiſhery on the coaſt of the United kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, failed for the two laſt ſeaſons;† and that the internal troubles had occaſioned a ſcarcity of cattle in Ireland;‡ although the price was exhorbitant in moſt caſes, one third of the quantity of fiſh for which orders were ſent from this iſland could not be procured, in many inſtances no part of it;§ a great proportion of this expected importation, intended chiefly for the larger eſtates was loſt in a fleet wrecked on the coaſt of Portugal,

* See No. X. page 28.

† It is in favour of the Britiſh American Colonies, that the excluſive privilege of ſupplying the Britiſh Weſt Indies with dried Cod and other fiſh is ſought, under favour of which there is no doubt, but that, the Britiſh European fiſheries would revive.

‡ This aſſertion is proved to be groſsly erroneous by the late very extenſive navy contract for Iriſh ſalted beef and pork, at unuſually low prices, and the conſtant export of live cattle from Ireland.

§ Britiſh America and Newfoundland, would have amply ſupplied the deficiency.

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and little or none was brought to the iſland for ſale, the only means by which the ſmaller ſettlers procure this important article. At the proclamation of martial law, the country did not contain one tenth part of the ſalted fiſh which was uſually to be found at the ſame ſeaſon of the year; and had the inhabitants with their negroes, been obliged to retire from the ſea coaſt, and concentrate themſelves in the interior, the wants and clamours of the latter might have produced conſequences moſt fatal to our ſafety.*

The meaſures purſued by his Majeſty's Miniſter's, prohibiting the importation of animal food, would have been a more powerful aid to the enemy, than additional armies and ſquadrons, and, in a ſimilar emergency, may occaſion the loſs of this country, in deſpite of the energy and exertions of the army and inhabitants.

Should no ſuch important criſis occur, the greateſt calamity will be brought upon our ſlaves by a total want of one of the firſt neceſſaries of life. About 100,000 barrels of ſalted fiſh, and a conſiderable quantity

* See No. X. pages 28 and 32, on this point.

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of beef and pork,* are required for their annual consumption. Whilst our situation was such as has been stated, calling for an immediate importation of upwards of 8000 barrels monthly,† not one has arrived from Great Britain or Ireland, since the 21st of May, and from the British colonies in America, only one vessel has entered in the port of Kingston, with 105 hogsheads of salted cod, and 114 barrels of other fish. ‡

Salted provisions are the chief corrective of the vegetable diet of the negroes, and a want of them inevitably brings on dysentries, and disorders of that class, which whenever prevalent, never fail to carry off great numbers.

By being deprived of what they know to be absolutely necessary, and have been accustomed to consider their right, discontents are excited, and there have already been instances of gangs of negroes leaving the plantations to complain to the civil Ma-

* Beef and Pork do not constitute any part of the food of the negroes.

†The Assembly do not mean salted beef, pork, or butter.

‡ The answer to these observations is, give the British Colonies in North America and Newfoundland, the benefit of a fair and constant preference, as they cannot embark in an extensive trade upon uncertain grounds.—See No. X.

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giſtrate of the uſual allowance being withheld; unable to comprehend a political neceſſity ſo fatal in its conſequence, they attribute the deprivation to the avarice and unkindneſs of their owners; and thoſe habits of reſpect and affection of ſuch importance in the government of the ſlave, and to the happineſs of his maſter, are rudely torn aſunder by the very men who accuſe the inhabitants of not cultivating them with due care, and have inſtructed your Honor to inſtitute inquiries, whether ſtrict attention has been paid to the law which requires giving the food we are prevented from procuring.*

The poorer free inhabitants are no leſs injured and oppreſſed by the regulations complained of. Already freſh beef, and other animal food, have been advanced one third in price.—To the opulent this may be of little conſequence, but the poor man, ſupporting himſelf and a family by daily labour, is obliged to abridge a meal which before was not abundant. The coſt of freſh

* The Aſſembly can not mean any of the articles of proviſions in the ſupply of which Ireland claims a preference, as they are not conſumed by the negroes.

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beef for the navy and army, has augmented in the ſame proportion. Amongſt the millions by which the ſtateſmen of the mother country reckon her expenditure, this may be little regarded, but, in our unfortunate ſituation, with a revenue unequal to the claims upon it, ſuch an addition to the expence of ſubſiſting the troops is a ſerious evil. Within a very ſhort period, the coſt of the rations allowed has been trebled, and it cannot be doubted that a perſeverance in the meaſures lately adopted, muſt accelerate the period when this burthen will become inſupportable.*

It would be eaſy to enlarge on the evils which we have thought it ſufficient to hint at; the proofs of the facts are ready; the conſequence cannot be denied; and we truſt that your Honor will apply the remedy before it be too late, by iſſuing a proclamation, giving permiſſion to carry on the intercourſe as conducted previous to the 21ſt of May laſt.

In ſimilar ſituations the mother country opens her ports to all the world, and invites ſubſiſtence on any terms; ſhe has even reſ-

* See No. X. page 33, where theſe aſſertions are denied.

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pected an enemy under the preſſure of famine, and permitted food to enter the ports of Spain during the preſent war.

We only requeſt to be furniſhed with what ſhe cannot give:* Our commerce we ſubmit to her regulations; but, in framing them, we muſt be permitted to hope that the comfortable ſubſiſtance of all the lower orders of the community, and the lives of our ſlaves, will not be ſacrificed on the intereſted miſrepreſentations, and for the advantage of ſelfiſh individuals, who look only to the profits of their ſpeculations, without regard to their effect on the general intereſt.†

No. VIII.

ANSWER,

Of his Honor the Lieutenant Governor.

"*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Aſſembly.*

"In conſequence of the meaſures which were taken during the late martial law, for

* On this principle the papers No. IV. and No. X. are formed.

† This reflection is as unfounded as the premiſes on which it ſtands.

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the ſecurity of Jamaica, all neutral veſſels have been, by my directions, admitted to an entry at the ſeveral Cuſtom-Houſes in the iſland, although they may have contained *ſalted proviſions*, prohibited by my proclamation of the 20th of May laſt. The arrival of the Cork fleet, which is daily expected, will, I truſt, tend eſſentially to quiet the apprehenſions you entertain of a ſcarcity of thoſe articles, ſo neceſſary for the ſupport of the poorer claſſes of the inhabitants of the iſland, as well as to correct the vegetable diet of the negroes."

ST. JAGO DE LA VEGA, *July* 13.

In conſequence of his Honor the Lieutenant Governor having again declined to open the ports of this iſland, for the importatiou of *ſalted proviſions* from the United States of America, or to liſten to the ſtrong and pointed repreſentation of the Aſſembly, the houſe was yeſterday cleared of ſtrangers, and the doors ſhut, with the view, it was generally believed, of entering into ſome further reſolutions on the ſubject.—In a few minutes, however, The Provoſt-Marſhal made his appearance, touched the door with his magic wand, which inſtantly flew open, he entered and commanded the attendance of the houſe in the Council Chamber. The mandate was immediately obeyed, when his Honor gave his aſſent to the Commiſſioners, Falmouth Police, and Indemnity Bills, and prorogued the Houſe.

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No. IX.

Proclamation permitting the free importion of live ſtock, fruit and fiſh, in addition to materials for bread and pulſe.

JAMAICA,

By his Honor GEORGE NUGENT, *Eſq. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over this his Majeſty's iſland of Jamaica, and other the territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice-Admiral of the ſame.*

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas I have thought fit, by my proclamation, bearing date the 20th day of May laſt, to permit, for the ſpace of ſix months, to be computed from the date thereof, the free importation of flour, corn, corn-meal, bread, rice, peas, beans, and lumber of every deſcription, in veſſels belonging to neutral and other ſtates, in amity with Great Britain, upon the like terms, charges, and conditions, and ſubject to the ſame rules, regulations, viſitations, and ſearches, as are obſerved with reſpect to

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Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes: And whereas the general ſcarcity of proviſions which prevails throughout the iſland, and the exigency of the caſe requires, that certain other articles and things, not enumerated in my ſaid proclamation of the 20th of May, ſhould be allowed to be imported for a limitted period: I do now therefore iſſue this my proclamation, permitting, until the 31ſt day of December next, the free importation of *ſheep, hogs, poultry, ſmall live ſtock of all kinds, fruit, and all ſorts of fiſh, flour, corn, corn-meal, bread, rice, peas, beans and lumber of every deſcription*, in veſſels belonging to neutral and other ſtates in amity with Great Britain, upon the like terms, charges, and conditions, and ſubject to the ſame rules, regulations, viſitations, and ſearches, as are obſerved with reſpect to Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes: And I do hereby alſo permit all veſſels importing the foregoing articles, under the authority of this proclamation, to export from hence rum and molaſſes, from any port or ports, place or places, of this iſland, upon the like terms, ſtipulations, charges, and conditions, as are obſerved with reſpect

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to Britiſh veſſels in the like caſes:—And in caſe any perſon or perſons, importing proviſions or lumber to this iſland, under the authority of this proclamation, *ſhall attempt to introduce any other articles* than are herein particularly enumerated, meaſures will be immediately adopted for the forfeiture of the ſhip or veſſel and cargo, ſo contravening the laws of navigation.

Given under my hand and ſeal at arms, at St. Jago de la Vega, this 23d day of July, in the year of our Lord 1805, and of his Majeſty's reign the 45th.

G. NUGENT.

By his Honor's command,

H. CATHCART, Sec.

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No. X.

Remonſtrance of the Merchants of Kingston, againſt the free importation of ſalted Beef, Pork, Butter, dried and pickled Fiſh, from any other country than the Britiſh Dominions.

To his Honor GEORGE NUGENT, *Eſq. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the iſland of Jamaica, and the territories thereon depending in America, &c. &c. &c.*

The Memorial of the underſigned Merchants of Kingston.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR,

WHEN upon a former occaſion, we had the honor of addreſſing you on the ſubject of the intercourſe between this iſland and the United States of America, we ſtated, from a conviction impreſſed upon our minds, from the beſt ſources of information in our power, to obtain, that ſound policy dictated that their veſſels ſhould be interdicted from introducing into our colonies either *ſalted proviſions, dried or pickled fiſh*, as the mother country and her dependencies in America, are amply competent to furniſh us with ade-

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quate ſupplies of thoſe articles, and at moderate prices, *if proper aſſurances were held out to them, that they ſhould have no rival neutrals to contend with.*

That by your Honors Proclamation bearing date the 20th day of May laſt, regulating the ſaid intercourſe for the ſpace of ſix months, and enumerating the articles permitted to be imported in neutral bottoms, we found thoſe above mentioned* not of the number enumerated.

We therefore did not expect ſo ſoon to be compelled to trouble you with any further remarks relative thereto. We however reluctant, find ourſelves obliged to come forward in conſequence of certain repreſentations made to your Honor by the honorable the Houſe of Aſſembly, under date of the tenth of July laſt; containing obſervations, reaſonings, and concluſions in which we can by no means acquieſce. They appear to ſet out upon the general principle, that the very exiſtence of the colony depends upon a free

* That is ſalted beef, pork, butter, and fiſh, which therefore remained prohibitted.

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importation from the United States of America, in their veſſels, of ſalted proviſions and fiſh; that the Mother Country, and her remaining American colonies are unequal and unable to furniſh the ſupplies wanted; that an alarming ſcarcity exiſted from the loſs of the Cork convoy under the Apollo frigate; and the failure of the Herring Fiſheries on the coaſts of Ireland and Scotland; that from the twentieth of May, to the tenth of July, only one ſolitary arrival from Britiſh America, is entered at the Cuſtomhouſe here; and further, that in the ſame ſhort ſpace the interdiction of the importation of ſalted beef from America, had raiſed the price of freſh beef from one ſhilling and three pence, to one ſhilling and eight pence per pound; and laſtly, they hope that the comfortable ſubſiſtence of all the lower orders of the community, and the lives of their ſlaves, will not be ſacrificed on the intereſted miſrepreſentations, and for the advantage of ſelfiſh individuals, who look only to the profits of their ſpeculations, without regard to their effect on the general intereſt.

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To the firſt aſſertion we can only repeat what we have already ſtated in the early part of this addreſs, that we ſtill continue to have the fulleſt conviction upon our own minds, derived from the beſt ſources of information in our power to obtain, *that the United Kingdom, and her remaining American colonies have the means amply in their power of ſupplying the whole of the Britiſh Weſt-Indies with ſalted proviſions, dried and pickled fiſh, in the greateſt abundance, and at fair prices, if the veſſels of the United States of America, ſhall be wholly excluded from importing theſe articles, and of which our own dominions and colonies only want an equitable trial to be extended to them for a reaſonable time, to prove their capability of performing what we here aſſert in their behalf; if on trial they fail, we ſhall no longer advocate their cauſe.*

That we deem it important to the general intereſt of the empire, to have the experiment tried; and that we conceive that the trade with the United States in their veſſels, ought to be no further encouraged than neceſſity requires, as it operates very much to the prejudice of the colonies in ge-

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neral, *the greater proportion of the returns of their proceeds, being carried away in ſpecie.*

That we do not conſider it good policy to make ourſelves dependent upon foreigners for ſtaple articles of life, when by proper regulations we can be ſupplied by fellow ſubjects.

That it would be no more than an act of common juſtice to the ſettlers of Nova Scotia and New Brunſwick, many of whom are American loyaliſts, who have made important ſacrifices through their attachment to their King and Country, to give every preference to their products, and to uſe every means to promote their views and intereſt, if they can ſupply us with the whole or any part of thoſe articles neceſſary for our ſubſiſtence, on nearly the ſame terms as their late American fellow ſubjects.

That in reſpect to the alledged alarming and general ſcarcity, *we anſwer, that ſo far as relates to ſalted proviſions, at the time theſe repreſentations were made, long prior thereto, and up to the preſent day the Kingston market was ſeldom, or perhaps never, more plentifully ſupplied.* The prices have been extremely low, and ſales unuſually dull, as many of

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the holders and ſhippers can with propriety verify, having latterly ſuſtained heavy loſſes in the ſale of theſe particular articles; nor is there any ſcarcity to be apprehended from the want of cattle in Ireland, for we are warranted in aſſerting that they now abound there in the greateſt plenty.* The unfortunate fate of a part of the Cork fleet, under convoy of the Apollo Frigate about 18 months ago, and the conſequent loſs of lives and property, no claſs of men more ſincerely deplore than we do; but how this circumſtance can be aſſigned as one of the cauſes of our preſent real or pretended ſcarcity, is to us incomprehenſible. In our mode of reaſoning, it would appear that had theſe ſupplies arrived in their due courſe, they would have long ſince been conſumed, or if not conſumed, would have been rendered in a great degree unſerviceable, from the great length of time they would have lain in a warm climate. That the Herring Fiſheries on the coaſts of Scotland and Ireland have of late years

* This fact is proved by the late very extenſive contract for the ſupply of the navy with Iriſh ſalted beef and pork, at very low prices, and the conſtant export of live cattle from Ireland.

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conſiderably fallen off, and alſo that a ſmall proportion of the orders from this country for that article have been executed, we readily admit; ſo here in two important points we are perfectly agreed, although our concluſions may be very different. Have the fiſheries on the ſhores of Britiſh America failed? *We anſwer No.* Have thoſe perſons who have been diſappointed in their ſupplies from the Mother Country, taken any ſteps to procure them, through the medium of any other channel? *We preſume not, as they do not pretend to tell us ſo.* Have they ſent any orders to Nova Scotia, &c. where ſuch orders *would* and *could* have been executed with avidity, (for the ſame credit that can procure them from Great Britain, could ſurely do ſo from any other part of her dominions), and at much lower prices than they have latterly been furniſhed at from home? But this we alſo preſume we may anſwer in the *negative;* having never learned of any manner of exertion on the part of the Planters, to replace the ſupplies of Fiſh heretofore regularly imported from the Mother Country, but which of late years ſhe could not am-

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ply furniſh, otherwiſe than by placing almoſt their ſole dependence for ſuch articles on the uncertain arrivals from the United States, who have not of late, and for ſome months antecedent to the interdiction, flocked in upon them ſo profuſely as heretofore. Hence it appears that if the comfortable ſubſiſtence of the lower orders of the community, and the lives of their ſlaves, have been at all put in jeopardy, (which we think has been ſufficiently diſproved), it is chargeable to their own negligence altogether, and cannot in any way be attributed to the meaſures adopted by the Government. Beſides, *has any ſcarcity really exiſted*, and does famine, with all its direful conſequences, ſtare us in the face? We muſt be again permitted to anſwer in the *negative*.

The fact of there being no want of ſalted proviſions, we hope that we have ſatisfactorily proved, and as to the article of Fiſh, we ſhall ſtate what has come under our own obſervation in this market, as being more immediately within our view. We have known during the continuance of laſt Martial Law, and at a

time when the moſt alarming ſcarcity was ſaid to have prevailed; that there was publicly ſold, after due notice in the daily prints, no inconſiderable quantity of American Herrings, at the reduced rate of twenty-five ſhillings currency per barrel. Does this look as if there was the leaſt dread of famine! *ſurely not, being hardly the original coſt at the port of ſhipment in the United States*, where every kind of proviſions abound in the greateſt plenty. Great ſtreſs appears to be laid upon the one ſolitary arrival from Britiſh America, from the twentieth of May, to the tenth of July, from which it is preſumed, an inference is meant to be drawn that our coloniſts are totally inadequate, or unable to ſupply our neceſſary wants. But is this by any means a fair concluſion? *Was there time from the date of the Proclamation to ſend notice, that our markets for Fiſh would be open to Britons only; and for the receipt of cargoes ſhipped on ſuch notice?—By no means: double the time was barely ſufficient.*——Beſides, we do not conſider that this alledged delay ſhould operate againſt them in the ſmalleſt degree, and

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for this obvious reaſon, that it was not a ſeaſon of the year when we had a right to expect ſuch arrivals, for we wiſh it to be underſtood, that they have their regular ſeaſons for catching and curing fiſh in the ſame manner as the different branches of agriculture or commerce, have here or in any other part of the world.

The repreſenations of the Honorable the Houſe of Aſſembly go on further to ſtate, that the interdiction of ſalted beef from America, has already raiſed freſh beef here, from one ſhilling and three pence, to one ſhilling and eight pence per pound; but by what mode of argument they may be able to make this out, it is difficult for us to foreſee; ſince the date of the proclamation, there has ſcarcely been a perceptable riſe in Iriſh ſalted beef. The very beſt prime planters meſs beef, may now be bought by ſingle barrel, or half barrel, at the rate of one ſhilling per pound, and inferior qualities proportionably low. That the price of freſh beef ſhould ſtart five pence per pound all at once, whilſt the price of ſalted beef has remained ſtationary, muſt we conceive

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have ariſen from cauſes, different from thoſe aſſigned by the Honorable the Houſe of Aſſembly; but which it is not our province to divine.

Their remaining animadverſions on this topic, as they do not appertain to us, or any thing we have ſaid or written, we ſhall leave to wiſer heads, and abler hands to comment upon. Their very liberal and complimentary concluding paragraph, copied verbatim in a former part of this Addreſs, we ſhall paſs over in ſilence, leaving it to the deciſion of thoſe whoſe minds may be unfettered with local prejudices, to ſay to whom the appellations therein contained will moſt fitly apply.

Having thus ſubmitted to your Honor our obſervations on the repreſentations of the Honorable the Houſe of Aſſembly, with the freedom and frankneſs of Britons, and we, flatter ourſelves, with every due reſpect, we hope and truſt your Honor, will take the ſame into your conſideration, and at ſome convenient period, favour us with a reply; we ſhall only obtrude on your Honor, this further remark, that ſhould it ever happen, that this, or any of

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our ſiſter iſlands ſhall be viſited with any ſuch calamity, as the ſaid repreſentations ſeem ſo much to dread, (and which may Heaven for ever avert) we conceive it more likely to ariſe from the perpetual applications of Weſt India Aſſemblies to their reſpective Governors, to diſpenſe with ſome one or other of the regulations preſcribed by his Majeſty's Miniſters, than from any other cauſe whatſoever; becauſe neutral veſſels will not venture to come amongſt us, from an apprehenſion of the ports being ſhut againſt them; and on the other hand, we are not likely to obtain plentiful ſupplies either from the Mother Country, or from our North American Colonies; nor can it be expected that our merchants will turn their whole energy and attention to that deſirable end, whilſt the moſt diſtant proſpect exiſts of the trade being again opened.

Kingston, 31*ſt Auguſt*, 1805.

(Signed)

Henry, Weſt, & Co.	H. Wardle, Bleaſe, & Co.
Shaw, Inglis, & Mills,	G. Hindmarſh, & Co.
James Amoſs,	Wm. Hoſeaſon,
N. Williamſon,	Edward Cowell,

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Smith, Huie, & Co.
Joſeph Donnell,
H. Ewing,
A. M'Culloch,
J. Haggart,
Thomas Gliſſon,
M'Caa & Walker,
Croſman, Harris, & Co.
Thomas Cuming,
James Keene,
Roſs & Caldwell,
James Harnett,
W. Harrington,
W. Carter,
Joſeph Longmore,
J. Jones,
James Howie,
Munro & Hance,
Moffat & Alexander,
Thomas Uſher, & Co.
Robert Murray,
Auchie, Miller, & Co.
Alex. M'Bean, & Co.
Arch. Currie,
Stewart & Wood,
John Weſt & Co.
Burrowes & Fowles,
Purcell & Parcifico,
Knox & Herdman,
Nathan Herdman,
Hamilton & Collier,
John Grant,
Joſeph Aguilar, jun.
Benj. Dias Fernandes,
Rebeiro, Son, & Co.
Alex. Brodie,
Wm. Bryan,
Ewing, Ritchie, & Co.
Ferguſſon & Co.
Joſeph Aſkwith, & Co.
James Orr,
John Howlett,
Robert Graham.

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